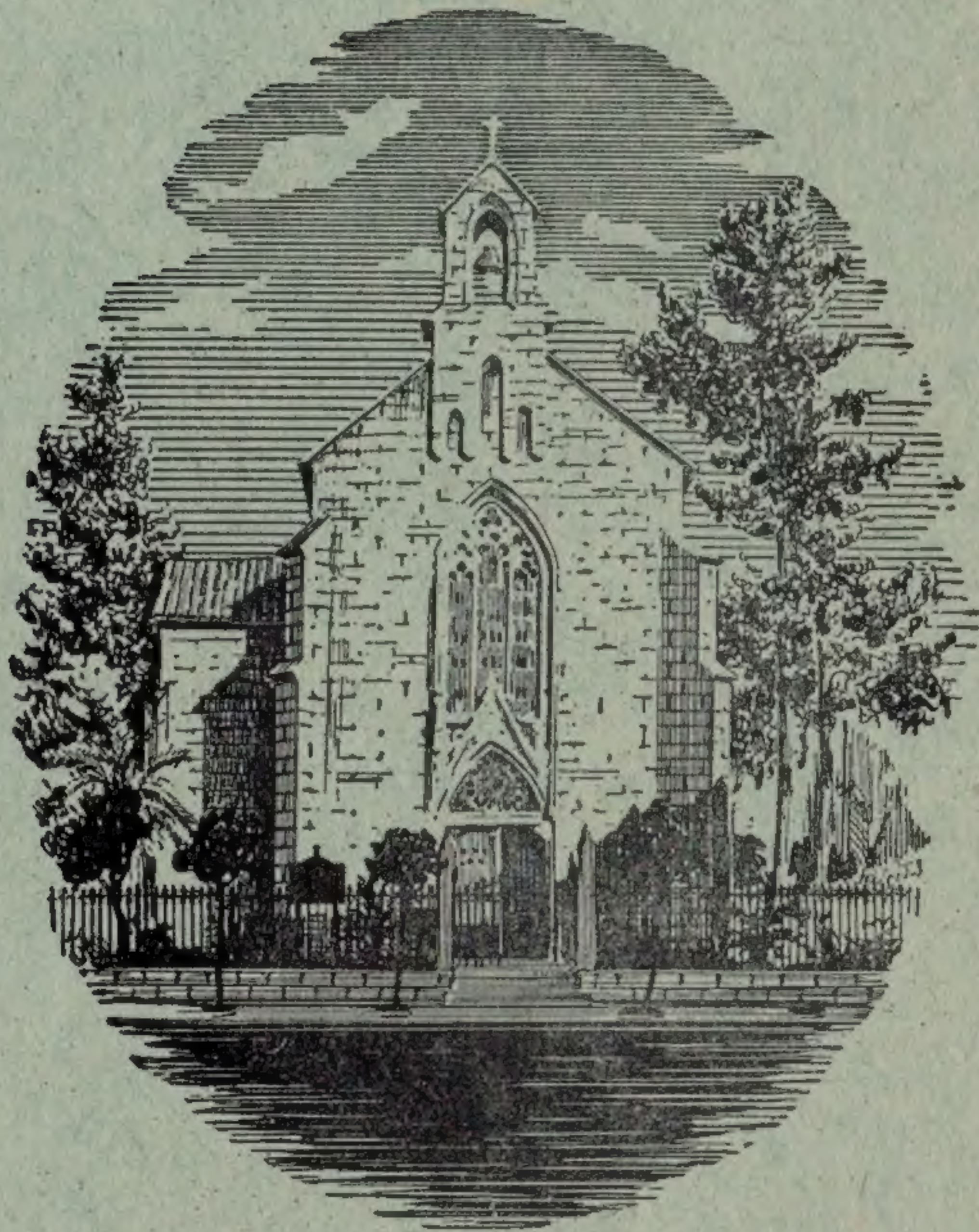


THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF
ST. PAUL
ATHENS.
A SHORT HISTORY



FEBRUARY 1968.

PRICE: DRS. 5.

Sunday, 24 May 1970
10 o'clock service

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OF

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In bringing this history up to date I have used the « Centenary Souvenir » of 1938, and the Minute Books of the Church annual general meetings and council meetings. I take this opportunity of thanking Canon Duncan and Mr. A.O.E. Hill for their assistance in this work; and, as it is impossible to mention the names of all those individuals and companies who have generously helped to keep the Church alive over so many years, I apologise for all such omissions.

ATHENS,

FEBRUARY 1960.

Revised and reprinted

FEBRUARY 1968.

W. G. ANGUS
(People's Warden)

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

of
ST. PAUL

ATHENS.

A SHORT HISTORY.

Before the foundation of St. Paul's, Dr. J. H. Hill, (of the American Episcopal Church) who established in 1831 the still existing girls' school in Athens under the name of "Hill School for Girls", held services at his house for the English speaking residents of the capital.

In 1836, the Rev. H. D. Leeves, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, arrived in Athens as representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and in 1837 he was appointed chaplain to the British residents, holding services in the British Legation or in his house.

In the same year, 1836, we find Bracebridge, a prominent English resident of Athens, writing: —

"We have just bought the ground for the Protestant Chapel..... The Protestant Cemetery on the Ilissus has lately been completed and planned".

It is interesting to note here that the Protestant Cemetery on the Ilissus is the property of the then several Protestant Governments which contributed to the expense of purchasing the ground and enclosing it with a wall. The actual purchase was made in 1835 by Bracebridge who was reimbursed by the Governments of Great Britain, Denmark, Prussia, Holland and Bavaria.

In 1837, a meeting was held for «the speedy execution of the plan of building a Protestant British Church» before which were laid the title deeds of the ground purchased, together with the formal permission of the Greek Government. A Committee of Management was appointed, consisting of Sir Edmund Lyons, the British Minister, Leeves and Finlay (the eminent historian of mediaeval and modern Greece, whose library forms part of the British Archaeological School). Palmerston, to whom, as Foreign Secretary, application was made for financial assistance from the British Government, urged that «the estimates be framed on the most economical scale». The plans in simple English Gothic style of Mr. (afterwards Sir) W. Henry Acland, who was travelling in Greece at the time, were temporarily approved, but subsequently amended by Cockrell (who had been excavating at Aegina and Bassai in 1811 and 1812 and was a well-known English architect) and Hansen (a Dane who designed the University of Athens and who remained as local consultant architect during the construction of St. Paul's) as being more economical and in line with the amount of

money received from the British Government (£800) and privately subscribed (£2,000).

On Easter Monday, 1838, Sir Edmund Lyons laid the foundation stone of the present Church. He was assisted by John Green, British Consul at the Piraeus,—there was no Consul in Athens until 1921. The foundation stone is not visible, and it is not known, if it ever was. There were deposited under the stone British and Greek coins and a medal having on one side the head of our Lord and on the reverse his injunction « Love one another ». The service was conducted by Hill and Leeves, and it was attended by the entire British Community and many Greeks. The church is constructed of limestone from Mount Lykabetos, a reddish poros (a lowgrade limestone) from Aegina and a grey harder limestone from the lower slopes of Hymettus. A small amount of marble was also used, noticeably in the lintel over the main door.

On 10 August 1840 a resolution was passed confirming that the title deeds of the site and building should be in the name of the then Consul or « the Consul for the time being, to be held by him in trust for the British Protestant subjects inhabiting Athens ». The Church is thus the property of the British Community whose representative is the Consul.

The Church was eventually consecrated on Palm Sunday, 1843, by Dr. Tomlinson, Bishop of Gibraltar under whose diocese Athens was placed, and was appropriately dedicated to St. Paul, whose visit to Athens was one of the great events of its history.

Leeves was the first chaplain and, as he had been appointed previously chaplain to the British Legation, he continued to hold this post until his death in 1845. Succeeding chaplains continue in the same manner, although the appointment is now to the British Embassy, as the Legation was raised to the status of an Embassy after the 1939-45 War.

There have, of course, been many changes in the lay-out of the exterior and interior of the Church since the original building was erected. Philhellenon Street was not then in existence and, when it was laid about 1855, the Church garden was made smaller and subsequently a wall and railings were erected round the garden. Originally, there was a gallery above the entrance door, but this was demolished in 1891 when the vestry and organ chamber were built,— the present organ was brought out from England in 1901 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, having been purchased out of moneys subscribed by the residents and congregation. The lectern was presented in 1892 by the British Archaeological School (founded in 1866), and the Bible now in use was given in 1954 by Mr. J. M. Paterson resident in Athens 1952-62. The Font of Pentelic marble was presented by Thomas Blayds of Leeds between the years 1842 and 1844.

In 1909, the Church was lit by electricity for the first time and the light fittings then installed are those in use to-day.

During the First World War 1914-18, there is a

hiatus in the records of the minutes of Church meetings, the last one being held on 9 May 1916 and the next in May 1922. Thereafter the Church continued to meet the needs of the residents until the 1939 - 45 War.

In April 1938 celebrations were held in the Church on the completion of the centenary of laying the foundation stone, and a « centenary Souvenir » of the history of the Church was published.

In April 1941 the majority of the British Community had to evacuate Greece just before the occupation by the Germans and Italians. The Church was locked up, and hardly suffered during the occupation, although various repairs to the roof and fabric were made during the immediate post-war years.

On the liberation of Greece in October 1944, the British Military authorities reopened the Church and took over its administration and remained in control until 31 December 1947. Meantime, in June 1946, a Provisional Working Committee had been formed from members of the British community until such time as a Church Council could be elected once again.

The Rev. D.A. Duncan M.C., M.A., was appointed as Chaplain by the Foreign Office and arrived in Athens in September 1947, his wife following later in November. A meeting of the British Community was held on 22 January 1948, at which the Bishop of Gibraltar was present, and the first post-war Church Council was elected.

A list of Chaplains from 1837 to date is at the end of this booklet.

In 1955 the Chaplain was raised to the dignity of the Canonry; and in 1956 a flat was purchased at 6, Karneadou Street, Athens, as a permanent Vicarage residence.

In the autumn of 1958, a new stone floor was laid in place of the wooden one which had become rotten, the electrical installation for heating and lighting purposes was overhauled and renewed, and a storeroom and toilet were built under the Vestry and southern side of the Church.

In January 1963 the inside of the Church was cleaned and repainted from roof to floor.

It will be interesting now to turn to the various windows and monuments in the Church. The East window commemorates a tragic act of brigandage in modern Greek history, — the so-called « Marathon Massacres » or « Drama of Oropos » when three Englishmen, Vyner, Herbert and Lloyd, and an Italian Boyl, on their way back from Marathon in the year 1870 were captured by a band of brigands and killed at what is called in memory of the event « the bridge of the lords ». (This bridge is no longer in existence as it was demolished when a new concrete bridge was built in 1954 to carry the reconstructed Rafina road to avoid a dangerous bend, — it is situated on that road just after Pikermi and the new « Nea Zoe » Mobiloil petrol station). The window, consisting of two lights, contains figures of Saints Stephen, Paul, Andrew and Lawrence with his grid-iron, with the appropriate text from Revelation VII

14 - 17, pointing out that « These are they which came out of great tribulation ». It is not known in what year the window was presented or by whom.

The windows in the North and South transepts are in memory of General Sir Richard Church, who, after military service in Egypt, Italy and the Ionian Islands, was appointed in 1827 to command the Greek military forces then fighting in the War of Independence from the Turks. He remained in Greece thereafter until his death in 1873, having been made Inspector-General of the Greek army in 1836 and a Senator in 1844.

The North window was presented in 1875 by the British Government and contains in its two lights figures of Joshua and Caleb. The fight with Amalek is represented below the former, and grapes carried by two of the spies from the Promised Land are represented below the latter. A brass tablet contains an inscription composed by Gladstone, the then Prime Minister, whom it is thought probably visited the Church when in Athens during the winter of 1858 / 59.

“This window is dedicated by the British Government to the memory of General Sir Richard Church, who, after distinguished services in the British Army on the shores of the Mediterranean, devoted himself to the cause of Greece as a soldier and a citizen, and won, by the example of a long and noble life, the affection of the people for himself and for England - 1873”.

The South window was presented in 1875 by the family of General Sir Richard Church, including his nephew, the Dean of St. Paul's London. It contains the figures of Gideon and David, the story of the dew and the fleece, and David slaying Goliath.

The stained glass West Window was presented in 1960 by the Hill family of Athens.

Coming now to the various tablets in the Church, and starting on the left hand side on entering and going round in a clock - wise direction, they are to :

Sir Henry Acland; his nephew, Wilfrid Reginald Dyke Acland, Wing Commander of the R.A.F. who was killed in an aeroplane accident at Old Phaleron on 1 October 1937; John Archibald Ballard of the Royal Engineers, Bombay, who died in 1880 at Molos; George Stoakes and others,—this the oldest British monument in Athens and was probably brought to the Church from the Thesseion, which converted into the Church of St. George, was the burial place of Englishmen in Turkish times. The inscription runs as follows:

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΖ ΤΟΥ ΙΝΓΛΕΖΟΥ ΧΑΙΠΕ

Here rests in hope of (the) resurrection the body of Georges Stoakes born at Limehouse in London who after nigh seven years appren-

*ticeship in Athens unto Consull
 Lancelot Hobson and learning
 the Italian Greeke and Turkish
 languages dyed the sixth of August
 1685 in the twenty fourth year
 of his age unto the inexpressible
 grief of his said patron who hath
 erected this monument out (of) true
 respect unto the deceased's memory
 Adjacent lye the bodies of Captain
 Thomad Roberts commander of shipp
 Recompence of Yarmouth who dyed
 at Porto Leone the twelfth of May 1685 :
 Also Captain William Fearn Com-
 mander of the Unity pink of Lon(don)
 who dyed at said port the twen(ty)
 sixth of July 1685 :*

This inscription is historically interesting, not only as showing British trade with Porto Leone (as the Piræus was then called from the statue of the lion standing there, which Morosini carried off to Venice in 1687) but as giving us the name of the only English-born Consul down to Green's appointment in 1838. Hobson is also mentioned in a letter of the Levant Company of 1687;

Frank Abney Hastings, the tablet shows where his heart was immured at the instigation of the

late Arthur Hill, who was long churchwarden and treasurer of the Church. Hastings, who brought the first steam propelled ship to take part in a naval battle, the famous «Kartaria», to Greece during the war of Independence, destroyed a Turkish fleet in the Bay of Salona in 1827, was wounded at Aitoliko near Missolonghi and died at Zante on 1 June 1828 (20 May 1828 old style calendar). The inscription reads:

“Here lies deposited the heart of Captain Frank Abney Hastings, younger son of Lieutenant General Sir Charles Hastings, Bart., who, having been mortally wounded in an attack on Anatolikon, died in Zante on the 20th_{os} day of May, 1828, aged 34 years. He was buried in Poros, where an obelisk is erected in the old Arsenal to his Memory”.

There is next a tablet in memory of those who gave their lives in Greece during the 1939 - 45 War which was put up by the Services;
Grace Triantaphyllides, Church organist for 35 years, who died on 5 December 1924 aged 93 years.

The chancel contains two monuments on its walls, a slab to Leeves (inaccurately described

as « chaplain to the British Embassy », because the same Greek word is used for both « Embassy » and « Legation ») his son Henry Minet, his daughter-in-law, Harriet; and infant grandson, Henry Samuel, who died of cholera. Readers of this tablet seldom realise the tragedy underlying the bald statement that the son and wife died on the same day, August 28th, 1854. They had a house at Kastaniotissa in Euboea, where they were murdered by villagers, one of whom was the son of a priest. The murderers were guillotined, and the priest never recovered from the shock of his son's confession.

On the other side of the wall is a slab erected by the wife of Henry Wodehouse, who was acting Chargé d'Affaires and who died of fever in Athens in 1873.

The Sanctuary was altered and beautified between 1960 and 1963 by the many friends who had subscribed to a fund in memory of the late Sir Charles Peake, G.C.M.G., M.C. British Ambassador in Athens from 1952 to 1957. In 1967, the wrought iron flower baskets were given by Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Angus.

Continuing round the Church we come to the plaque erected in memory of the centenary celebrations in 1938 of St. Paul's, when William Temple, Archbishop of York preached;

Maud Caridia who died in 1900 and who was a regular member of the Congregation for many years;

Colonel George Bower, former South African Chargé d'Affaires in Greece, who died in 1955;

Gruntvig, who died in 1890, an engineer employed by the British company which drained Lake Copais;

Clement Harris who died fighting for Greece at the battle of « Pente Pegadia » (Five Wells) in Epirus during the Graeco-Turkish War of 1897. On 23rd April 1937 on the 40th anniversary of this battle and of Harris' death, a memorial service was held in the Church, wreaths were hung on the tablet, one of which bore the inscription in Greek « To Clement Harris, an Athenian in soul » He was a composer, and on this anniversary his symphony was played in the Odeion of Herodes Atticus, and an English translation was published of Maviles' poem on this Harrovian Philhellene;

John Mc Dowall Barbour and his wife who died in 1942 and 1965 respectively, both having long resided in Greece;

Arthur Hill, who died in 1903, grandfather of the present treasurer of the Church.

The chancel floor was relaid in 1954 as a me-

monial to Sir George L. Bailey K. B. E. of the Lake Copais Company, who died on 12 January 1953. It was presented by the London Directors of the Lake Copais Company and his friends among the English community in Athens; and In front of the Chancel a brass tablet was laid by the Church Council in May 1957 in memory of Gerald Baldwin Hayward M. B. E. a resident of Athens since 1938, who died on 13th May 1958. In November 1961, his wife presented to the Church the Credence Table now in use in the Sanctuary.

The flags hanging in the chancel, apart from the Union Jack and Greek national flag, were presented, hung and dedicated during the years 1954, 1955 and 1961, as under:

The White Ensign by Rear Admiral W. H. Selby, C. B., D. S. C., the last British Admiral in Greece before the British Naval Mission was withdrawn.

The Air Force flag by the then Air Attaché, Air Commander F. R. Drew C. B. E.

The Canadian flag by the then Canadian Ambassador, H. E. Mr. T. W. Mac Dermot.

The Australian flag by the then Australian Consul General, Mr. Gordon Brooks.

The American flag by the then American Ambassador, the Hon. Ellis O. Briggs.

The South African flag by the then South African Ambassador, H. E. Maj. Gen. W. H. E. Poole, C. B., C. B. E., D. S. O.

In December 1966, the South African and Canadian flags were substituted by newly designed ones.

Outside the Church in the wall to the right of the entrance door is a monument to Benjamin Gott, who died at Piraeus aged 24 in 1817, and whose tombstone was laid « next but one to » that of Tweddell, but subsequently « removed to the new English churchyard » by the Ilissus, whence the bodies were transferred to the English corner of the Athenian cemetery. The Gott family, well known in Yorkshire, asked in 1926 for information about this monument. It is marked No. C. C. 3 in the books of the Protestant Cemetery; but, as it could not be traced at the time, a new tombstone was engraved which is now the one outside the Church. Next is all that remains of a monument to John Tweddell, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a student of the Middle Temple, who came to Athens at the end of 1798, but died in 1799 in the arms of Fauvel, the cicerone of every learned traveller, as the result of a « double tertian fever ». He was buried in the Thes- seion with military honours. Elgin composed a Latin

inscription, which Lusieri sent to be revised by Father Daniel at Naples; and, after long delay, the monument was placed in the Thesseion on 1811, where it was seen as late as 1833, but subsequently disappeared. Three fragments of the stone however were found in the yard of one of the museums in Athens, bearing the Latin inscription:

O H S S (= Ossa Hic Sita Sunt)

JOHANNIS TWEDELL (ANGLI)

PROVINCIA NORTHUMBRIA

CANTA(BRI)GIAE LITERIS IM(BUTI)

(TOMAS DE ELGIN)N COMES

(AMICO OPTIMO OP) TIMEQ MERITO

(M. C. F.) C.

which were removed to their present position outside the Church in March, 1926. Finally, there is a slab commemorating Elgin's architect, John Baptist Lusieri, who after living for 25 years in Athens, died there in 1821. During the Napoleonic War in 1813, when there were two parties in Turkish Athens, he was the leader of the British, who showed their gratitude by erecting this monument to their « lost friend, the distinguished painter » as the Latin epitaph says.

A complete list of chaplains is given below:

1837 - 1845	Henry D. Leeves
1845 - 1870	John H. Hill, D. D.
1870 - 1871	W. H. Lanphier (Dr. Hill acted from 1871 - 4)
1874 - 1875	H. T. Scott, M. D.
1875 - 1884	John Bertram d'Arcy (1882 - 3 H. S. Newton) (1883 - 4 J. T. Nance)
1884 - 1887	F. A. Clarke
1888 (Jan - Oct)	W. E. Cockshott (transferred to Constantinople)
1888 - 1889	J. S. Dawes (temporary)
1889 - 1908	F. R. Elliott
1908 - 1916	W. Alan Gardner
1920 - 1921	A. F. Hill
1922 (Feb - May)	E. W. P. Keeling (temporary)
1922 - 1926	W. A. Wigram, D. D.
1926 - 1930	P. C. A. Usher
1931 - 1941	R. Richmond Raymer, C. M. G., D. S. O.
1944 - 1947	Royal Army Chaplain's De- partment
1947 - 1960	D. A. Duncan, M. C., O. B. E., M. A.
1961 - 1965	J. Findlow, M. A.
1965 -	C. S. Crowson, M. A.

ATHENS
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